

MNMM Fatal 2005-05

- Machinery
- March 14, 2005 (New Jersey)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Plant Operator
- 66 years old
- 2 years experience

Overview

The victim was injured when a work boat he and another co-worker were on capsized. A crane and the boat were being used in an attempt to retrieve a dredge anchor from the bottom of a dredge pond. The crane and the boat were simultaneously hooked to the anchor line. The crane operator's view of the boat was obstructed and there were no communications established between the crews.

Overview

Because there was too much slack in the cable connection to the crane, the crane backed away from the shore, capsizing the boat. Two co-workers rescued the two employees from the cold water and administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation to revive the victim. He was hospitalized and died on March 24, 2005. None of the employees were wearing life jackets that were available on the boat.



Why Did Accident Occur?

- The accident occurred because the mine operator did not ensure that effective procedures were used to protect persons attempting to recover the dredge anchor. The operator failed to ensure that a method of visual contact or verbal communications was established between the crane operator and the employees on the boat. Neither of the employees on the boat were wearing the life jackets that were available on the boat.

Causal Factor

- The method used to rig the workboat hoist, the recovery cable, and the cable sling connected to the crane, made it inevitable that tension applied by the crane would cause the boat to capsize. The rigging needed to be disconnected from the work boat to safely complete the task.

Causal Factor

- Direct communications between the work boat personnel and the crane operator was not maintained to complete a task requiring constant coordination and communication.

Causal Factor

- Neither employee on the workboat was wearing the life jackets provided on the workboat at the time of the accident.

Best Practices

- Ensure that a life jacket is worn where there is a danger of falling into the water.
- Establish and maintain positive two-way communications between crews, including using a spotter if necessary, when performing tasks that must be coordinated.
- Conduct a risk analysis before starting the task to ensure that all hazards are evaluated and eliminated.